



Connecting Youth to Jobs Act of 2020

As the United States continues to grapple with the economic fallout of the coronavirus pandemic, the youth unemployment rate, particularly the unemployment rate for youth of color, remains historically high. Between March and April 2020, the share of Americans ages 16-24 who were disconnected from the workforce or education system increased significantly, from 12 to 20 percent.¹ By June 2020, 28 percent, or 10.3 million young people, were neither in school nor the workplace, the highest ever observed for the month of June.² Bold investments are critical to supporting an equitable economic recovery while connecting young people to jobs or education.

To ensure access to youth employment programs during periods of high national youth unemployment, public health emergencies, national disasters, national emergencies or economic recession, the Connecting Youth to Jobs Act:

- **Provides \$30 billion in state & local formula funding to support youth jobs in high-poverty areas.**
The Connecting Youth to Jobs Act invests in subsidized youth public employment programs, particularly those in areas with historically high levels of youth unemployment. Priority will go to programs serving a high number of underserved youth, including youth of color, out-of-school youth, low-income youth, or youth impacted by the juvenile or adult criminal justice systems.
- **Establishes a \$10 billion competitive grant for supportive services and work-based learning opportunities for youth.**
The Connecting Youth to Jobs Act supports eligible entities in forming comprehensive youth service delivery systems, supporting the transition from subsidized to unsubsidized employment, and reducing the rates of recidivism among incarcerated and formerly incarcerated youth.
- **Directs the Department of Labor (DOL) to collect youth employment program performance data.**
The Connecting Youth to Jobs Act requires the collection of performance data within one year of enactment, including program completion rates; the success rates of full-time unsubsidized employment or reconnection to public education after program completion; and the diversity of, and equal opportunities available through funded youth programs.
- **Directs DOL to conduct an assessment and submit a report to Congress.**
The Connecting Youth to Jobs Act requires DOL to review and assess the programs and equity, diversity and inclusion activities funded under this Act; and related federal guidance and submit a report to Congress, including best practices and recommendations for improvement.
- **Directs the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to conduct a comprehensive review.**
The Connecting Youth to Jobs Act requires GAO to submit a report to Congress detailing the effectiveness of the youth programs funded under this Act, including associated challenges, and trends in youth progress toward unsubsidized, full-time employment, furtherance of skills, competencies or postsecondary credential attainment.

¹ Fry, Richard, and Barroso, Amanda. "Amid coronavirus outbreak, nearly three-in-ten young people are neither working nor in school." *Pew Research Center*. 29 July 2020. <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2020/07/29/amid-coronavirus-outbreak-nearly-three-in-ten-young-people-are-neither-working-nor-in-school/>

² Fry and Barraso, Amid coronavirus outbreak, p. 1.